

REMARKS

Claims 7, 10, 12, and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 7; has canceled claim 7; has amended claim 8 to include the limitations of claim 10; has canceled claim 10; has amended claim 15 to include the limitations of claim 16; and has canceled claim 16. As such, independent claims 1, 8, and 15 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-3, 5-6, 9, 11-14, and 17-20 each depend from one of independent claims 1, 8, and 15 and are now also in condition for allowance. Claim 4 was previously canceled. Applicant has also added new independent claim 21, which comprises all of the limitations of old claims 8, 9, and 12, previously held to be allowable if rewritten into independent form. As such, new independent claim 21 is now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference is necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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By:

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